

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A display-panel-drive apparatus having a drive unit that drives the display panel and a control unit that outputs 5 control signals for controlling said drive unit to said drive unit, the display-panel-drive apparatus comprising:

a drive board of said drive unit;  
a control board of said control unit;  
a transmission line that transmits said control signals 10 from said control board to said drive board by way of a removable connector;

a detection device that detects when said connector is disconnected; and

15 a control device that controls said drive unit when said detection device detects that said connector is disconnected; and wherein

said detection device detects that said connector is disconnected by detecting when the connection terminals of said connector are disconnected.

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2. The display-panel-drive apparatus of claim 1, wherein said detection device is located on said control board.

25 3. The display-panel-drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control device stops operation of said drive device when said detection device detects that said connector is disconnected.

4. The display-panel-drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display-panel-drive apparatus drives a plasma display panel as the display panel.

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5. The display-panel-drive apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control signals are signals that cause said drive unit to output scan pulses given to successive display lines for setting some of the discharge cells located on said 10 plasma-display panel as light-emitting cells and some as non-emitting cells.